

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



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95th Washington State Patrol Basic Training Class Graduates

At a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda this afternoon, 49 Washington State Patrol Troopers were sworn in by Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, and presented their commission cards by Governor Christine Gregoire and Chief John R. Batiste, who welcomed them into an organization known and trusted by the citizens of Washington State.

After completing over 1000 hours of training, these men and women will join Washington's premier law enforcement organization. The Washington State Patrol Academy only produces approximately 3 cadet classes each biennium, which accounts for about 120 new troopers. Historically, only about 4 to 6 percent of the total numbers of applicants make the grade to become WSP Troopers.

"The 49 cadets graduating today endured a rigorous application process, extensive background investigation, and received the best training unmatched anywhere else in the nation," said Chief John Batiste. "Today, they will join the ranks of Washington's finest, as troopers of the Washington State Patrol."

A tradition that started a little over 85 years ago on June 21, 1921, when six brave men kick-started their Harley motorcycles, strapped on an arm band, and started a proud tradition known today as the Washington State Patrol. This tradition continues to this day with the graduation of the 95th Trooper Basic Training Class today at the Capitol Rotunda, signaled by the stream of shiny white patrol cars parked in the lanes leading up to the capitol steps.

During the ceremony, the Core Values Award was presented to **Troopers Todd E. Bartolac and Nicholas A. Jennings**. This award is presented to the trooper cadet who most typifies the Training Division Core Values during training, which include Honesty, Integrity, Team-Oriented, Attention to Detail, Adaptability, Self-Discipline, Performance-Driven, Professionalism, Officer Safety, and Sense of Urgency. The recipient of this award is determined by an anonymous vote of his classmates, and is sponsored by the Washington State Patrol Memorial Foundation to honor the most recent State Patrol employee to give their life in service to the citizens of the state of Washington. Trooper Jim Saunders was killed in the line of duty on October 7, 1999, and this award is presented today in his honor. Trooper Saunders' wife, Billie, presented the award to Troopers Bartolac and Jennings.

In addition to this award, Chief Batiste presented six trooper cadets with awards at a ceremony held on April 15, during open house at the WSP Academy. These awards included:

Top Driving Award

Presented to **Trooper Todd E. Bartolac**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with respect to driving skills and techniques, decision-making and mind-set, and steady and constant improvement through each phase of drivers training. (82 hours)

Top Firearms Award

Presented to **Trooper Travis B. Calton**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with all weapon systems, marksmanship scores and skills, and demonstrates sound judgment during practical encounter scenarios. (110 hours)

(more)

Top Defensive Tactics and Fitness Award

Presented to **Trooper Ryan P. Los**, this award recognizes the highest level of tenacity and drive used to excel physically, which is displayed by a cadet during physical fitness training, control and defensive tactics training, and their command presence. (140 hours)

Top Academic Award

Presented to **Troopers Nicholas A. Jennings and Milton J. Johnson**, this award recognizes the outstanding efforts of the cadet who attains the highest Grade Point Average from over 30 tests and quizzes during their training. The class average GPA for the 95th TBTC was 88%; Jennings and Johnson both scored an impressive 93%.

Top Collision Investigation Award

Presented to **Trooper Ryan A. Sauve**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency regarding collision investigation, including mathematical computation, scene investigation, information and evidence gathering, report writing, and teamwork. (64 hours)

Top Overall Cadet Award

Presented to **Trooper Justin A. Medcalf**, this award recognizes the trooper cadet, who demonstrated great courage to overcome obstacles, unwavering dedication to stay focused on reaching their goals, and their ability to give 100% in every aspect of their training. Medcalf demonstrated the necessary skills, abilities, and judgment to be an excellent trooper, and made extra efforts to continuously make improvements.

Listed below are the newest WSP Troopers, their initial assignment, and their hometown.

CADET NAME	ASSIGNMENT	HOMETOWN
AGUERO, Clancey L.	Burlington	Mount Vernon
ANDERSON, Jeffrey A.	Bellevue	Moses Lake
BARTLETT, Aaron C.	Bremerton	Port Orchard
BARTOLAC, Todd E.	Bremerton	Ellensburg
BASSEN, Chad A.	Moses Lake	Spokane
BOLSON, Nigel P.	Bellevue	Port Orchard
BOYER, Andrew S.	Bellevue	Poulsbo
CALTON, Travis B.	Morton	Puyallup
CORTEZ, Jose M.	Hoquiam	Yakima
DOMINGUEZ, Michael P.	Bremerton	Olympia
FARMER, Jay R.	Yakima	Yakima-Grand Forks, North Dakota
FIKSDAL, Anders A.	Bellingham	Lynden
FORTINO, Kevin L.	Tacoma	Dupont
GREENE, Chad S.	Vancouver	Denver, Colorado
GRIFFITH, Joshua T.	Bellevue	Covington
GUNDERSON, Eric T.	Tacoma	Tacoma
HAYES, Angela C.	Bellevue	Sumner
HERRUD, Trevor J.	Yakima	Yakima
JENNINGS, Nicholas A.	Vancouver	Silverdale
JOHNSON, Milton J.	Bellevue	Athol, Idaho
JUITT, Larry G.	Tacoma	Tacoma
KIRKEBY, Scott A.	Shelton	Olympia
KLUKAS, Christopher M.	Bellevue	Renton Puyallup
KNOOP, Donald S.	Bellevue	Puyallup
KNUTSON, Joseph S.	Port Townsend	Quincy
LANGDON, Michael R.	Bellevue	Federal Way
LAYMAN, Jesse S.	Hoquiam	Yakima

LEGROS, Leon V.	Marysville	Kent
LOS, Ryan P.	Bremerton	Gig Harbor
MAIER, Justin D.	Vancouver	Silverdale
MEDCALF, Justin A.	Bremerton	Spokane
MENDENHALL, John L.	Moses Lake	California
MORGAN, Makayla	Olympia	Olympia
OLIPHANT, Rocky P.	Marysville	Marysville
PRETHER, Matt R.	Silver Lake	Kent
PRICE, Alexis A.	Kelso	Federal Way
SANTHUFF, Ryan W.	Shelton	Olympia
SAUVE, Ryan A.	Yakima	Yakima
SERGEYEV, Pavel V.	Bellevue	Washington
SHEARER, Debra L.	Silver Lake	Kennewick
SHELBY, Daniel J.	Monroe	Seattle
SKAGEN, Christopher J.	Marysville	Washington
SLEMP, Marvin D.	Naselle	Spokane
SLOAN, Matthew H.	Marysville	Tenino
STEVENS, Lewis R.	Shelton	Spokane
THOMAS, Clint M.	Bremerton	Poulsbo
THORPE, Thomas E.	Bellevue	Tacoma
WARD, Mark A.	Marysville	Wenatchee
ZIELINSKI, Thomas A.	Bellevue	Highland Falls, New York

Photos of each cadet are available upon request. If you would like a photo, please contact the Office of Government and Media Relations (360) 753-5299.

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